

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 191600Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 229

S E C R E T CAIRO 2201

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN E-1 SITUATION

REF: CAIRO 1833

1. WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF SINAI II ABOUT TO BE FINALIZED, FOLLOWING UPDATES PREVIOUS REPORTING ON US ASSISTANCE TO EGYPTIAN MILITARY IN CONNECTION WITH PLANNING FOR E-1 SITE AND REQUEST URGENT GUIDANCE ON SEVERAL POINTS.
2. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIANS HAD EARLIER PLANNED TO DEPLOY THE TWO MOBILE VANS TO E-1 ON FEB 19, THEY HAVE NOW DECIDED DELAY UNTIL FEB 20. REASON IS THAT THEY DO NOT WISH LARGE NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS WHOM ISRAELIS HAVE INVITED TO VISIT SITE ON FEB 19 TO SEE STATION.
3. MEANWHILE, EGYPTIANS HAVE INVITED LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS FROM HERE TO VISIT E-1 SITE FEB 22. AS OF LATE THIS AFTERNOON, 106 JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING AMERICAN) HAD SIGNED UP FOR TRIP.
4. AS INDICATED PARA 4 REFTTEL, SIX MEMBERS OF US TEAM PLAN TO DEPART CAIRO TOMORROW, FEB 20, TO JOIN EQUIPMENT CONVOY AT CANAL AND PROCEED DIRECTLY TO E-1. WORK ON ERECTION OF EQUIPMENT IS EXPECTED

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COMMENCE ASAP MORNING FEB 20 TO ENABLE SITE

TO BE OPERATIONAL ON FEB 22 AS PLANNED. THIS  
RAISES INTERESTING PROBLEM. IF WE PROCEED ON ABOVE  
BASIS, US TEAM MAY BE PRESENT AT SITE AT SAME TIME  
DROVE OF EGYPTIAN INVITED NEWSMEN ARE THERE. HAS DEPT ANY  
OBJECTION TO THIS? IF SO, I WOULD HAVE  
TO CONTACT GAMASY URGENTLY AND SAY AT MINIMUM OUR  
PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO WITHDRAW FOR FEB 22,  
I.E., DURING PRESS VISIT, BUT THIS WOULD PROBABLY  
MEAN E-1 SITE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE OPERATIONAL ON  
FEB 22. PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATE DEPT'S WISHES.

5. RE PARA 6 REFTTEL, I AM STILL AWAITING DEPT'S  
APPROVAL TO PROPOSAL FOR AN AMERICAN REMAIN FOR A  
MONTH OR TOW UNTIL SUCH TIME AS EGYPTIAN HAVE  
ACQUIRED NEED COMPETENCE TO MAINTAIN PHASE I  
EQUIPMENT THEMSELVES. AS OF NOW, DESPITE  
TRAINING PROGRAM, THEY DO NOT. WITHOUT PRESENCE OF  
AN AMERICAN, WHO MIGHT STAY IN SUEZ OR ELSEWHERE ON  
CANAL AND PROCEED DAILY TO E-1 SITE, THERE IS  
SERIOUS QUESTION THAT E-1 WILL LONG REMAIN OPERATIONAL.

6. AFTERNOON FEB 19 GAMASY PERSONALLY INSPECTED  
TRAINING SITE AND THANKED US TEAM MEMBERS FOR  
THEIR ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE PLANS  
BE AT E-1 SITE ON FEB 22. I QUESTION WHETHER HE  
WOULD WANT TO BE AT SITE IF E-1 IS NOT OPERATIONAL  
THAT DAY, BUT HE HAS REPEATEDLY MADE IT CLEAR TO  
US THAT HE WANT E-1 TO BE OPERATIONAL FEB 22 AND  
COUNTS UPON OUR HELP TO INSURE THIS.  
EILTS

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